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UNION FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

S. B.

AS PROMULGATED BY ORDER OF THE

BOARD OF CONTROL.

FIRST REVISED EDITION.

CHICAGO.
C. J. WARD, PUBLISHER, 136 LAKE STREET.
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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The Objects of the S. B

Section 1.—*The Five Landmarks.*

The objects of the S. B. Association are comprehended in the following extracts from the Covenants of the Comrades.

1. To preserve, through all coming time, the unity of the United States from disintegration and decay.

2. To secure to posterity our birthright of freedom of conscience, speech and action.

3. To afford to people of other lands an asylum, a refuge from tyranny, oppression and political wrong.

4. To perpetuate the memory of the founders of this great Republic and of their worthy and immortal successors.

5. To teach, by covenants, emblems and solemn ceremonies, the harmony, strength and beauty of National unity.

This summary of the aims of the S. B. Association shall forever stand as a basis of its legislation.*

Section 2.—The Structure is Military in Form.

The polity, rituals, ceremonies, nomenclature and discipline of the S. B. are military in spirit and form. The Revised Army Regulations of the United States and approved works upon Military Tactics are the general instructions to the S. B., save where the ritual otherwise directs.

By-Laws, Rules of Order and Local Regulations may be made at pleasure by the Company, Regiment and Division within the limits of this Constitution. Each exercises absolute control over its own finances.

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* The general principles of jurisdiction are these:

FIRST.—A Company for each township; 25 or more to a company.

SECOND.—A Regiment for each County; 4 or more Companies to a Regiment. Regiments are known by their NUMBERS, not by LETTERS.

THIRD.—A Brigade for each Congressional District; four or more Regiments to a Brigade.

FOURTH.—A Division for each State or Territory.

Officers to correspond with these subdivisions.

By Special Order, a Company may be organized with a less number than 25.

ARTICLE II.

Comradeship of the S. B.

Section 1.—*Comrades of the First Grade.*

The Comradeship of a Company Camp is divided into three grades, viz:

Those who enjoy full Comradeship with the privilege to vote and hold office, constitute *the First and highest Grade.* Of these each Company must have upon its Rolls not less than twenty-five to constitute a working Camp. The Comrades of the First Grade must be "free, white, male persons; effective, sober, of good character and habits," and not less than 18 years of age. But soldiers and seamen, having once regularly served in the forces of the United States. are eligible to Comradeship of the First Grade, though under 18 years of age.

Section 2.—*Comrades of the Second Grade.—Cadets.*

Those who visit and share in all the privileges of the S. B. save those of voting and holding office, constitute the Second Grade; they are styled Cadets. Their qualifications are the same as Comrades of the First Grade, save that they are less than 18 (but not less than 14) years of age.

Section 3.—*Comrades of the Third Grade.—Honorary.*

Those who visit the Camps of S. B. as Honorary Comrades, are gentlemen of patriotic eminence, elected for that purpose.

The President of the United States, the Vice President and Cabinet, the Governors of the States, and all Supreme and Circuit Judges, are *ex-officio* Honorary Comrades during their respective terms of office.

But Comrades of the Third Grade must be covenanted to all the requirements of the S. B. before they can enjoy any of the privileges of this Grade. They are not required to pay Dues or Fees of any kind.

Recruits for the First, Second and Third Grades are elected to Comradeship, according to Section Sixth of this Article.

Section 4.—*Regimental Comradeship.*

Regimental Comradeship is representative, being made up of Officers of Companies appointed for that purpose.

Section 5.—*Division Comradeship.*

Division Comradeship is representative, being made up of the Officers of Regiments appointed for that purpose.

Section 6.—Election to Comradeship.

A Comrade in a Company Camp, being desirous to enlist a friend in either grade of Comradeship, may, at any regular meeting of the Camp, present a petition therefor, which must be in the following form (changing names and dates) viz:

S. B. PETITION.

The undersigned, a Comrade of the First Grade, in 3d Company, 9th Regiment S. B. of Michigan, encamped at Oxford, LaPeer county, Michigan, hereby recommends to Comradeship of the First Grade, Mr. Thomas Sawther, whose qualifications to the S. B. correspond with these required by the Constitution of the S. B. Association and the By-Laws of the Company.

(Signed) HENRY SHORT.

Oxford, Mich., Aug. 1, 1864.

This petition shall be read aloud by the Second Lieutenant, discussed with freedom by the Comrades present, and then put to the vote. The manner of voting shall be by slips of paper, on which the Comrades shall write "A" for admission, or "O" for objection. These shall be collected by the Corporals, and laid before the Captain, who shall count them and announce the result. If three objections be found, the application shall be referred to a commit-

tee of five, of which the Captain shall be Chairman, with instructions to report on the objections at the next regular meeting, when, if it be found that the "Admissions" form a clear majority of not less than nine-tenths of the Comrades present, the Recruit shall be declared elected and the record so made up.

The Second Lieutenant shall then give to the Comrade who presented the petition a certificate in the following form (changing names and dates), viz:

S. B.

CAMP OF 3D COMPANY, 9TH REG'T S. B. OF MICHIGAN,
ENCAMP AT OXFORD, MICH., Aug. 1, 1864.

This certifies that at a regular meeting of this Company, held at Headquarters this day, Mr. Thomas Sawther was duly proposed by Comrade Henry Short, to become enlisted in the S. B. and it appearing, on inspection of the ballot, that the constitutional majority of nine-tenths of the Comrades present was favorable to his enlistment, it is hereby ordered by the Captain, that Mr. Thomas Sawther be admitted to all the rights and privileges of the S. B. in accordance with the Ritual thereof.

(Signed) AARON LONG,
2d Lieut. and Sec'y.

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Section 7—How Comrades may Resign.

Any Comrade may resign his Membership at pleasure, by announcing his wish at a Regular Meeting of the Company. *Provided*, that he is under no pecuniary obligations to the Camp, and that no charges for unworthy conduct are outstanding against him.

His request shall be stated to the Camp by the Secretary, and if no pecuniary or disciplinary charges are on the files against the Comrade, the Captain shall order his name stricken honorably from the Rolls.

But no Officer who has been regularly commissioned, can resign his command except by permission of the Commander-in-Chief or the Major General of the Division to which he belongs.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS OF THE S. B.

Section 1—Who are the Officers.

The Officers of a Company of S. B. are as follows:

1. The Captain.
2. The First Lieutenant.
3. The Second Lieutenant.
4. The Ensign.

5. The First Sergeant.
6. The Second Sergeant.
7. The First Corporal.
8. The Second Corporal.
9. The Sentinel.

To these necessary Officers of the Company, there may be added at pleasure, a Company Chaplain, a Clerk, Third, Fourth and Fifth Sergeants, a Drummer, a Fifer, and such other subordinate and non-commissioned officers as the Company, by its By-Laws, may provide. The minimum strength of a Company, including Officers and Privates, is twenty-five; but the number may be increased at pleasure.

The Commissioned Officers of the Company are the Captain, First and Second Lieutenants, and Ensign. The rest are appointed by the Captain.

The Officers of a Regiment or Division of S. B. correspond in number and rank with the Army Regulations of the United States.

Section 2—What are the Officers' Duties.

The general theory of official duty in the S. B. corresponds with that of the Revised Army Regulations of the United States. In addition to military requirements, the business of the Company Camp is distributed among them as follows, viz:

1 The Captain.—His *station* in the Camp is at the end of the Camp opposite the entrance. His *weapon* is the Sword. His *rank* is denoted by his shoulder straps. He is *keeper* of the Signet-ring.

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2. THE FIRST LIEUTENANT.—His *station* is on the right of the Captain, and two paces distant. His *weapon* is the Sword. His *rank* is denoted by his shoulder straps. He is *ex-officio* Treasurer of the Company, and Quarter Master.

3. THE SECOND LIEUTENANT.—His *station* is on the left of the Captain, and two paces distant. His *weapon* is the Sword. His *rank* is denoted by his shoulder straps. He is *ex-officio* Secretary of the Company, *keeper* of the archives, and Commissary.

4. THE ENSIGN.—His *station* is unchangeably by the flag-staff. His *weapon* is the Sword. His *rank* is that of Third Lieutenant, and is denoted by his shoulder straps.

5. THE FIRST SERGEANT. — His *station* is to the right in front of the Captain, and facing the flag-staff. His *weapon* is the Sword. His *rank* is denoted by his chevrons.

6. THE SECOND SERGEANT.—His *station* is near the door of entrance to the Camp, and facing the Captain. His *weapon* is the Sword. His *rank* is denoted by his chevrons.

7. THE FIRST CORPORAL.—His *station* is on the right of the First Sergeant, and one pace distant.—His *weapon* is the Lance. His *rank* is denoted by his chevrons. He is one of the body guard of the Recruit during the ceremonies of enlistment and receives the Signet-ring from the Captain. At elections he collects the ballots in conjunction with the Second Corporal.

8. The Second Corporal.—His *station* is on the left of the Second Sergeant, and one pace distant. His *weapon* is the Lance. His *rank* is denoted by his chevrons. He is one of the body guard of the Recruit during the ceremonies of Enlistment, and receives the Book of Covenants from the Second Lieutenant. At elections he collects the ballots in conjunction with the First Corporal.

9. The Sentinel.—His *station* is outside the Camp. He has charge of the door of entrance. His *weapon* is the Musket. His *rank* is that of Second Corporal, and is denoted by his chevrons. Upon his vigilance and fidelity the security of the Camp mainly depends.

Section 3.—Duties of the Regimental and Division Officers.

The duties of Regimental and Division Officers in the S. B. correspond with the Revised Army Regulations of the United States.

Section 4.—Honor, the Basis of Obligation.

The basis of all Military obligation is *Honor*. Each officer when invested with the insignia of his rank is solemnly pledged to the performance of the duties thereunto attached.

Section 5.—How the Officers are Elected.

The Captain, two Lieutenants and Ensign, are elected at the Regular Meeting immediately after the formation of a company, or when a vacancy occurs.

Each Comrade of the First Class, who is on the Company Books, is eligible to office and to vote. *Provided*, That after the first election, no Comrade shall be elected Captain who has not previously served as Lieutenant, save by special permit of the Colonel.

Nominations to office shall be permitted; the vote shall be by slips on which the voters shall write. The Corporals collect the ballots, which are counted by tellers appointed by the Captain.

Between the time of election of officers and their installation, the Captain shall select the non-commissioned officers.

The Inauguration of the officers is performed under the supervision of the Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, or a Deputy appointed for the purpose.

ARTICLE IV.

The Meetings.

Section 1.—*Regular Meetings.*

The meeting of the Company of S. B. are of three kinds, Regular, Festival and Called. The Regular Meetings shall occur at least once a month, and at such times and places as the By-Laws of the Company may designate.

At Regular Meetings all ballotings shall be performed, moneys appropriated and the standard busi-

ness of the S. B. transacted. An Essay upon some patriotic theme may be delivered by a competent Comrade, and the correspondence of the Company read.

Section 2.—Festival Meetings.

There shall be two Festival Meetings annually, viz: on Washington's Birth-day and the Fourth of July.

Section 3.—Called Meetings.

Meetings of the Company may be called at any time at the direction of the Captain, but not, except in case of great emergency, without giving three days' notice to the Comrades. The Captain shall enter his orders to that effect in the Orderly Book, and the Secretary shall immediately display the Flag Signals to correspond. The Flag Signals shall be extended from hand to hand by the Comrades, in Company Meetings, until all are notified of their meaning.

The Enlistment of Recruits is best done at Called Meetings, though their election must be transacted at Regular Meetings, as required in Section First of this Chapter.

All the Meetings of the Company, whether Regular, Festival or Called, shall be conducted upon the general plan given in the Ritual.

ARTICLE V.

Archives, Library, Paraphernalia.

Section 1.—*The Archives.*

The Company shall carefully preserve its Archives. These consist of records and proceedings of the Company; its correspondence; the campaign reminiscences of the Comrades; patriotic essays and addresses by the Comrades; and the Orders and Proceedings of the Regimental and Division organizations.

Section 2.—*The Library.*

The Company shall sedulously perfect and preserve its Library. This consists of books relative to the previous wars of the United States; war maps, charts and diagrams; plans of forts and battles; histories; books of Tactics and of the Science and Art of War, etc., etc.

Section 3.—*The Paraphernalia.*

The articles necessary to a Camp, correspond with the Military theory of the S. B. Association as specified in the Ritual.

ARTICLE VI.

Discipline.

Section 1.—*What are Offenses.*

Offenses are violations of the Military Law as applied to the S. B. The Revised Army Regulations of the United States, especially the Articles of War, describe them with minuteness. In addition to offenses strictly military in their character, the following will afford grounds for charges against a Comrade, viz: Divulging the secresy of the S. B. Association; neglect to pay the Dues and Fees required by the By-Laws of the Company; refusal to obey a regular summons from the Company.

Section 2.—*Court Martials.*

Charges with suitable specifications may be preferred by the proper Officers, and Court Martials held agreeable to the requirements of Military Law. The penalties recognized by the S. B. are: 1, *Public Reprimand;* 2, *Suspension* for a limited period; 3, *Degradation from rank*, (if an Officer,) and *Expulsion* from the Company, or *Expulsion*, if a private. Notices of the penalties of Suspension and Expulsion shall be immediately forwarded to the General Office by the Secretary.

All trials are under the supervision of the Colonel in person or by Deputy, and no penalty inflicted by a Court Martial is final until approved by a Colonel.

Discipline in the Regimental and Division organization is conducted agreeable to the Revised Army Regulations of the United States.

Section 3.—*Retired List.*

The Board of Control shall have the power to put on the "Retired List" any commissioned officer who is absent from duty, or does not report for the space of three months.

ARTICLE VII.

Fees, Dues and Disbursements.

Section 1.—*Fees and Dues.*

Sec. 1. The Registration Fee in the S. B. shall be 25 cents.

Sec. 2. All Comrades enlisted by a special agent where no Camp exists, shall pay the sum of one dollar.

Sec. 3. Companies are required to remit to the General Office 25 cents for each member enlisted, and such sum for Commissions and Documents, necessary to organize a Company, as specified in order No. —, of the Board of Control.

Sec. 4. Organized Companies can charge such additional sum for enlistments as they may deem expedient, to be regulated by their By-Laws.

Sec. 5. The Fees for line and field Officers, are such as are specified in order No. —, of the Board of Control.

Section 6.—Disbursements.

All Company Disbursements are made upon orders drawn by the Captain, and countersigned by the Secretary. But no money shall be disbursed by the Treasurer, except by vote of the Company, taken at a Regular Meeting, save as provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII.

Miscellaneous.

Section 1.—Change of Constitution.

No Company has power to change this Constitution in any feature. Its own By-Laws and Rules of Order, however, may be adopted, amended, &c., at pleasure.

Section 2.—Fraternal Correspondence.

Each Comrade, when journeying from home should maintain a fraternal correspondence with the Company, which shall be read by the Secretary, and preserved in the Archives of the Company.

Section 3.—Military Instruction.

The Company or Companies, established in each County should give annually, under their authority, at least two public courses of Drill and Instruction

in the use of arms. This is to the end that all the youth of our country may be trained up in habitudes of military art and discipline.

Section 4.—Fraternal Attention.

The wounded, the sick, and the poor in Comradeship with the S. B. shall receive the devoted attentions of the Comrades. Deceased Comrades shall be awarded the honors of a military funeral.

Section 5.—Responsibilities.

All Commissioned Officers of the S. B. are directly responsible to the Major General of the State, and the Board of Control.

A monthly correspondence must be maintained by each Company, through its Secretary, (until the State Organization is effected,) with the General Secretary. Failure to make a Report, within the first ten days of the month, will call out a letter of inquiry from him, and if no satisfactory explanation is made, and the Report not rendered by the close of the month all the Commissions under which the Company is operating will be peremptorily withdrawn, and a notice sent by the General Secretary to every other Company in the S. B. Association, notifying them of the dissolution of the recusant Company.

No Comrade is entitled to travel and visit Camps until he has received from the General Secretary his Certificate of Registration upon the General Rolls of the S. B. Association.

ARTICLE IX.

The Board of Control consist of three classes, viz: The First Class consists of 34 permanent members of the Board who shall fill all vacancies in said class.

The Second Class consists of the *ex-officio* members, that is to say, of the Commander-in-Chief and the Major General of each State, Territory and the District of Columbia.

The Third Class consists of one Delegate chosen annually by the several executive committees, one from each State, Territory and the District of Columbia.

Five Members of the Board at any Meeting held at the General Office in Chicago, after notice, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE X.

Section 1.—*State Organization.*

Each State shall be entitled to a State Executive Committee, consisting of twice the number of their Representatives in Congress; when it shall have at least one Regiment in a majority of the Congressional Districts. Such State Executive Committee to act in all matters affecting the interests (financial or otherwise) of the S. B. in the State, under the Rules and Regulations laid down in the Constitution and Ritual, and amenable only to the Gen-

eral Board of Control, and the Commander-in-Chief. Said State Executive Committee to pay the General Board of Control 50 per cent. of all receipts.

The Territories of the United States and the District of Columbia shall each be entitled to an Executive Committee of five Members as soon as they shall have organized five Companies, to be governed by the same rules and regulations as State Executive Committees.

The Members of the State Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Board of Control on the nomination of the Major General. The Major General shall be President of the State Executive Committee, and the Brigadier Generals *ex-officio* members of the same.

Section 2.—County Organization.

Each County shall be entitled to a County Executive Committee, whenever said County has ten (10) organized Companies, representing, in the aggregate 500 Comrades. Said Executive Committe not to exceed one member for every two thousand inhabitants; it shall consist of only such as are approved by the State Executive Committee, or in its absence approved by the General Board of Control. The County Board will be nominated by the Colonel or highest Officer in rank, and elected by the State Executive Committee, or in its absence by the General Board of Control. Said County Executive